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S E C R E T ROME 004793

SIPDIS

NOFORN

DEPT FOR EUR/SCE , S/WCI, TREASURY FOR OFAC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/17/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [EFIN](#) [ETTC](#) [KAWC](#) [BK](#) [IT](#) [ICTY](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: OPERATION BALKAN VICE V - ITALY ON BOARD WITH VISA
BAN, WILL WORK WITH EU PARTNERS ON ASSET FREEZE

REF: STATE 267711

Classified By: POLMINCOUNS TOM COUNTRYMAN. REASON: 1.4 (B)(D).

1. (S) MFA Balkans Office Director Andrea Orizio told Poloff on December 17 that Italy was "on board" with USG view that imposing travel entry/travel bans and freezing assets of PIFWC's and their material supporters are important tools for achieving our shared objective to stabilize the region. Implementing travel restrictions on the individuals named in reftel would pose little problem, he said, and promised to transmit the list to appropriate border and immigration authorities.

2. (S) Orizio thought that procedures put in place in response to previous "Balkan Vice" operations should make the asset freeze/block portion of the request fairly straightforward to implement. He warned, however that a number of EU member states may continue to hesitate at freezing assets of PIFWC supporters without criminal or civil proceedings. Orizio promised that Italy would do what it could to sway its EU partners. He will also distribute the points to appropriate consular and economic offices within the MFA.

3. (U) Post will report septel on Ministry of Finance and financial institution responses to reftel points.

SEMBLER

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